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ALUMINUM AND NICKEL PRODUCTION IN THE USSR

THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY IN THE USSR -- Weinheim, Chemie-Ingenieur Technik, 51

The production of aluminum was begun in the USSR in 1932 by the Swanka Aluminum Combine on the Volkhov River. The combine in Zaporozh'ye on the Dnepr began operations in 1934 and the aluminum plant at Kamensk in the Urals in 1939. In 1941, the first two of these were evacuated to the plant at Kamensk, whose capacity had already been considerably increased during the war. In 1943, still another plant was put into operation at Stalinsk in Western Siberia and at the end of the war in 1945 an aluminum smelting plant was put into operation at Krasnoturinsk in the northern Urals. Here also the equipment of the damaged German Lauta Plant was set up. The aluminum smelting plants at Bitterfeld and Aken were also transported to the Soviet Union. Their present locations are unknown.

Today, the USSR, with a production capacity of perhaps more than 250,000 tons, holds third place among the world's producers of aluminum behind the USA and Canada. Its production is approximately the same level as that of the Germans in 1940.

USSR Aluminum Production in Tons
(Partially estimated)

1932	900	1945	85,000
1933	4,400	1946	90,000
1934	14,400	1947	105,000
1935	25,400	1948	135,000
1938	43,800	1949	155,000
1940	60,000	1950	200,000

The above figures represent primary aluminum. Of secondary aluminum, 13,000 tons were obtained in 1938. Since then this figure may have increased considerably.

Swanka - This combine is located on the Volkhov River (Leningrad Oblast). Before the war, it yielded annually 80,000 tons of ore and 20,000 tons of aluminum. The plant suffered considerable damage during the war. It is estimated that aluminum production again reached 15,000 tons by 1947 and may now have been increased to 20,000 tons.

Zaporozh'ye - The location of this enterprise is about 30 kilometers above the city of the same name on the Dnepr. The prewar capacity of 35,000 tons was probably attained once more in 1950. Its production for 1949 was said to be 15,000 tons. Aluminum oxide extraction in 1949 amounted to about 50,000 tons.

Kamensk - The most important aluminum plant of the USSR is located in the new city of Kamensk-Ural'sk in the Chelyabinsk Oblast on the Iset' River. During the war, the Swanka and Zaporozh'ye Aluminum Plants were incorporated into this enterprise. In 1940, Kamensk produced 10,000 tons. Its current capacity is estimated to be 75,000 tons a year. It is operated according to a somewhat modified version of the Bayer method. The combine is made up of the following components: Ore-enrichment shop, aluminum oxide shop, aluminum electrolysis shop, aluminum refinery, electrode shop, electric power station, magnesium shop, mechanical repair shop, and the gas-generator shop. It was planned and built by Soviet engineers and was equipped, for the most part, by Russian plants.

Stalinsk - The aluminum smelting plant in Stalinsk in the Kuznetsk Basin, western Siberia, began operations during the war. Its productive capacity is estimated to be 10,000 tons a year and is to be increased beyond this figure.

Krasno-Turinsk (Bogoslovskiy) - This aluminum plant, which was put into operation after the war, is located in the northern Urals in the neighborhood of the large and valuable bauxite deposits of Krasnoy-Shapochka. The German Lauta Plant was set up in this location. Its current capacity is estimated to be about 70,000 tons of aluminum

Kandalaksha - This combine, which is located in Karelia, was constructed before the war; however, it was probably not yet in full operation at that time. It was severly damaged by German air raids. Besides aluminum oxide and aluminum, alkali binders and cement are also produced. A capacity of 25,000 tons of aluminum was anticipated per year. It is assumed that so far no aluminum metal has yet been produced. However, it is possible that the production of aluminum oxide has been started.

Sumgait - A long time before the war, an aluminum oxide plant was planned for Sumgait in the vicinity of Baku on the Caspian Sea, and is possibly now in operation.

Yerevan - In the capital city of the Armenian SSR in the Transcaucasus there is probably in operation at the present time an aluminum oxide plant which is supposed to have a capacity of 60,000 tons of aluminum a year and later a capacity of 75,000 tons. Aluminum oxide is not intended to be produced here but is to be obtained from Sumgait and Kamensk

ESTIMATES OF NICKEL PRODUCED IN THE USSR - Frankfurt am Main, Der Volkswirt, No 4, 26 Jan 52

After the war, the USSR purchased the Finnish nickel deposits located at Petsamo and developed by the English "Mond Nickel Company." As a result, Soviet production today is probably higher than it was prior to the war. Although she is designated as the world's second largest nickel producer after Canada, this assertion is certainly doubtful. Nickel production in the USSR started in 1935 when the first smelting works in Ufaley produced 865 tons. Since then, other

smelting works have been built at Resh, Orsk, Monchegorsk, and Norilsk, and one was planned for Kazakhstan. The theoretical capacity of the Soviet smelters was set at 47,000 tons with an additional 10,000 tons from the smelter planned for Kazakhstan. As in other branches of Soviet industry, no detailed figures have been given, although an authoritative source set the production for 1940 at approximately 19,000 tons. In 1943, this figure sank to 11,000 tons. As a result of the purchase of the Petsamo deposits and the concession to develop them, Soviet nickel production may have gained an additional 10,000 tons. The British had hoped in 1941 to reach a production figure of approximately 6,000 to 10,000 tons.

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